

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minute requests from each side of the aisle.

ENERGY FACTS VERSUS FICTION

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, here is today's energy Facts versus Fiction, Volume II.

According to Gal Luft of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, at \$137 per barrel of oil, OPEC could potentially buy the Bank of America within 5 weeks of production revenues; Apple Computer within 12 days; General Motors within 5 days, and it would take 2.5 years for OPEC to buy a 20 percent blocking vote in every S&P 500 company.

Fact: The administration's budget slashes \$467 million from energy efficiency and renewable energy accounts. The House Appropriations Committee added \$1.2 billion. It is a much better investment, Madam Speaker, to add \$1.2 billion than to give away the Bank of America, Apple Computer and General Motors to the Saudis.

We need an energy policy that invests in American ingenuity, not Saudi Arabia oil profits.

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSES
FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, hours ago Iran fired nine long-range missiles, including the improved Shahab-III that can hit the State of Israel. It is time for the United States to offer full ballistic missile defenses for Israel.

Democracies are best when they stick together. We joined 10 years ago with the U.S. Army and Israeli military to build the medium-range Arrow missile defense system. While good, it offers Israel only a defense in the last minute. Three years ago we gave Israel "Eyes in the Sky," early warning data that gave her warning time an increase from 1 minute to 11 minutes.

Now, in the face of the rapidly growing Iranian threat, the G8 should think about sanctions, like a gasoline quarantine because Iran is totally dependent on half its gas from foreign tankers, most insured by Lloyds of London, and we can work with the British on that.

But most importantly, we should follow the direction of 70 Democrats and Republicans in the Kirk-Harman letter to offer full ballistic missile defenses for Israel. Our defenses have five times the range of Israel's and can do the most to lower the rising tensions in the Middle East.

MIDDLE CLASS SQUEEZE

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, middle-income Americans are paying a high price for the Bush economic policies that have taken us deep into debt and to economic recession. While the prices of groceries, gas, education, and health care have all gone up, the purchasing power of a middle-income salary has actually fallen over the last 7 years.

Unfortunately, Republicans and President Bush continue to defend the status quo, refusing to support our efforts to help middle class families feeling the economic squeeze. House Democrats are working on new solutions to deal with this immediate economic crisis, and for long-term economic recovery. We have taken action to extend unemployment benefits, insurance benefits, and also so that workers can continue to receive important financial assistance while they look for jobs in these trying economic times. We have also passed legislation to address the Nation's housing crisis so that millions of Americans will not be forced into foreclosure this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats also support a second economic recovery plan, and we hope we can gather Republican support for it.

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WE NEED TO FIX THE ENERGY
PROBLEMS OF THIS COUNTRY IN
THIS HOUSE NOW

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about gas prices and energy, specifically, the lack of action here in Congress on this issue. Our constituents want us to do something, and the reality is that we have the ability to do something but we're not.

Mr. Speaker, according to media reports, the House leadership is doing everything possible to stop a vote on opening more of the oil and gas reserves available in this Nation. It sounds like the entire appropriations process might be stopped rather than having a vote on using our resources so we aren't so dependent on OPEC. I really don't understand why. Maybe it's being captive to the extreme environmental lobby, or maybe it's a completely different philosophy that says we should not do everything possible to bring gas prices down.

What I do know, Mr. Speaker, is that we are not going above and beyond to fix this problem. This House is going above and beyond to stop a viable solution. That's wrong. I implore the Democrat leadership to let real energy solutions come up for a vote and get gas prices down.

BIG OIL DOESN'T NEED MORE
LAND TO DRILL; THEY SHOULD
USE IT OR LOSE IT

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, gas prices are hovering around \$4 a gallon now. Americans are having difficulty just finding the money to drive to the store. The energy policies of the Bush administration over the past 7 years have helped only one group, Big Oil. They're doing just fine, thank you very much.

House Democrats are moving America in a new direction towards energy independence. We raised the miles-per-gallon requirement for the first time in over 30 years. We are putting money into research and development. We're requiring energy-efficient appliances, and we are creating green jobs, among other things.

We're also demanding that oil companies drill now. They have 68 million acres of land that they could drill on. They have their permits. They need to get to work now. Last month, House Republicans could have joined us in sending a strong message to oil companies that they need to start drilling on already approved lands. But instead, House Republicans once again sided with both Big Oil and President Bush.

Mr. Speaker, the oil companies need to use those permits or lose those permits. America wants oil companies to get to work now and stop playing politics.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS STAND
READY TO HELP AMERICANS
COMBAT INCREASED ENERGY
COSTS

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans set forth an energy agenda that addresses the number one concern facing American families today: the high price of gasoline. The high price of gas is costing hardworking families an average of \$4.11 a gallon. That's \$1.70 more a gallon than it was in January 2007 with no relief in sight.

Skyrocketing gas prices have taken a dramatic toll on almost every area of our lives. Families are having to adjust by tightening budgets and trimming back family vacations. Small businesses, like the ones in my district, are watching their profits shrink while making tough decisions about expanding their companies or being able to make their payroll.

House Republicans have a plan that will increase production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way. Our plan will promote new, clean, and reliable sources of energy while cutting red tape and increasing the supply of American-made fuel and energy. Our plan also encourages greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to Americans